


The Hour



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Number 42

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HITLER'S PET DUKE TRIES TO REORGANIZE U. S. NAZIS

Midwest as Most Strategic Point on the Program of Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha -- His "Work for German Red Cross" Convenient Disguise

The recent visit of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to Chicago served as a signal for increased activity among Nazi Germans in the Middle West. At meetings with the local Hitlerites behind closed doors the Duke chided them for their failure to rally the Midwestern Germans around the flag of Adolf's Reich. He said that in New York and other Eastern states he found the same disunity among Germans. He expressed his particular grief over the confusion and strife which he noticed even among the Nazis who, he said, should know better than to fight among themselves in such an anti-Hitlerite country as America.

The Nazis of Chicago and vicinity tried to outdo their past records of pomp and circumstance in arranging a series of receptions for the Duke. Germans who are not openly Nazis but merely known as "sympathizers" were in the forefront of such receptions. The most elaborate of these receptions took place in the banquet halls of the Hotel Drake, but the most talked-about one was the reception-dinner arranged by the president and officers of the Germania Club at their club-house, 108 Germania Place. Several hundred persons, paying \$3.50 each, attended the function. Of this amount, \$2.00 went to the Duke "for the needs of the German Red Cross."

Hitler's Pal Since 1922

The Duke, officially the president of the German Red Cross, is actually an extra-special agent of Hitler and the Nazis. His present trip to the United States was ordered by Der Fuehrer himself. The Duke is entrusted with delicate tasks of supreme value to the Nazi Reich. At this writing the Duke is in San Francisco; from there he is expected to sail for Japan to do similar work of organizing support for Der Fuehrer under the guise of "German Red Cross activities."

Among themselves, the Nazis do not conceal the fact that "His Royal Highness, Carl Eduard, Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha," is a brown-shirt of old standing. The Hour has at its disposal the beauti-

fully engraved one-page biography of the Duke, which late last month was printed by Chicago's Germania Club for distribution among its members and guests. To quote from the revealing document:

"Having lost the Dukedom as a result of the revolution of 1918, His Royal Highness forthwith identified himself with the young Nationalist Movement, the aim of which was the reconstruction of Germany. His personal relations with Adolf Hitler, now Fuehrer and Chancellor of the Reich, date from 1922. Up to 1933 His Royal Highness was chiefly engaged in striving to unite the various nationalist groups in Germany under the leadership of Adolph Hitler. Subsequently, the Fuehrer appointed the Duke to a number of honorary offices, of which the most important are those of Honorary Chief of the National Socialist Motor Corps (NSKK), Honorary Chief of the National Socialist Flying Corps (NSFK) and President of the German Ex-Service Men's Union. He has been a member of the Reichstag since 1936."

Der Fuehrer's Duke Meets Chicago's Bundsters

Intensification of Nazi activities in the Middle West was among the more important tasks entrusted to the Duke on his American tour, for the Nazi command in Germany fully realizes the strategic importance of Midwestern states as the heart of America. Overhauling the Bund was one of the first points on his agenda. Because the Bund has been so largely discredited in the Middle West (as everywhere else in the United States), particular secrecy surrounded this phase of the Duke's efforts. However, one of the chief conferences between the Duke and the Midwestern Nazis did occur in the headquarters of Chicago's Bund -- not in the main hall, to be sure, but in another "more intimate" room. Present were older men rather than the better-known younger rowdies of the organization.

As a result of the meeting-conference at the Bund headquarters, a series of smaller gatherings of highly mysterious character is now taking place at Camp Bridgman, Michigan, and other similar points notorious for their previous Nazi associations. From 20 to 30 persons are summoned to these conferences; the Duke's message is repeated and elaborated upon; pep-talks are delivered and plans laid.

In Chicago, a special headquarters is being established "to collect money for the German Red Cross." A certain Herr Wagner is in charge of this work. Similar offices have been opened in Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. Other branches farther North and West are expected to be opened shortly.

Lack of Support Among Midwestern Germans

Despite all these activities, the Nazis of Chicago and vicinity continue to complain that the Germans of the Middle West do not support Hitler. The periodic meetings of the Bundsters in Chicago, which used to draw audiences of several hundred, now bring together no more than 50 or 60 people. The functions used to be noisy affairs, marked by much beer-drinking and speech-making, and lasting till midnight. Now they are list-

less, desolate and furtive; by nine o'clock all is over, and everyone goes home. Even the affair of last week, where films showing scenes of Norway and its riches (now under Nazi "protection") were exhibited, did not draw either the crowd or the enthusiasm expected by the little fuhrers.

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FASCIST DEATHERAGE SUES SATEVEPOST AND STANLEY HIGH

Claims Statement on Pogroms is "Libelous"
-- Suit Heard at Charleston, S. C.

George Deatherage, former chief of the fascistic Knights of the White Camellia, and still "the brains" of the would-be black-shirts and brown-shirts of America, has brought a libel suit against the Saturday Evening Post and Stanley High for certain statements in Mr. High's article on this country's star-spangled fascists. Deatherage at first listed seventeen counts against the magazine and the writer, but finally dropped sixteen of them. The remaining count has to do with Mr. High's statement that pogroms of Jews in the United States were expected to occur within a brief time. Deatherage claims that this statement involves him personally, that it charges him with the preparation of such pogroms. In their reply, the magazine and Mr. High state that an assertion of this type on the part of a writer is not specific but is subject to wide and various interpretations.

The suit is being heard in the Federal court of Charleston, South Carolina. Deatherage is no longer at his former headquarters at St. Albans, West Virginia, but has moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where he is employed as an engineer by the W. K. Ferguson Company.

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AMERICAN FASCISTS URGE U. S. AGGRESSION

Propagandize for Seizure of New Lands in Western Hemisphere

Reactionary and fascist elements in the United States have undertaken a vigorous campaign advocating for this country immediate aggression in the Western hemisphere. Deftly timing their propaganda to chaotic developments in Europe, these native "Nationalists" are urging, on a rapidly widening scale, the seizure of new lands in and near the Americas. Among the most active participants in this campaign is the familiar anti-democratic firm of Coughlin, Reynolds, Pelley & Co.

One of the proudest accomplishments of this super-patriotic clique must be credited to that staunch supporter of anti-alien bills, Senator "Bob" Reynolds of North Carolina. Early this month he introduced into the Senate a resolution proposing that the United States acquire all British- and French-owned territory in the region of the Caribbean Sea, including the West Indies, the Island of Bermuda, and British Honduras. These lands, the Senator casually explained, could be considered as part

payment (in the amount of \$5,500,000,000) against Allied war debts still remaining from the first World War.

Prior to Reynolds' resolution, Senator Ernest Lundeen of Minnesota announced that he had organized a "Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee" with headquarters in the Bond Building, Washington, D. C. The purposes of his Committee have since been favorably commented upon in the April 18 issue of the Bund's newspaper, Weckruf und Beobachter, which remarks that the Committee will "organize sentiment in favor of a demand from the American government for cash liquidation of war debts or cessation of land possessions in the Caribbean Sea and off the coasts of the American continents as payments on account."

Campaign for Mexican Grab

Intimately associated with these ideas is another and an equally important project: the seizure of Mexican land. Senator Reynolds, perhaps the most vociferous proponent of the U. S. "expansion," demanded last month in a radio talk from Raleigh, N. C., that Mexico be forced to cede to the United States the Mexican peninsula of Lower California. Eager to obtain the widest possible publicity for such sentiments, the Senator has subsequently had the text of his radio address inserted into the Congressional Record. Father Coughlin, with his anti-Mexican articles, is lending his press to spreading the Senator's word.

The proposal for this new American imperialism received its initial boost from Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh last October. "This Western Hemisphere is our domain," he said, and went on to elaborate on the ways in which "We" could ensure its complete acquisition. In this flight of fancy, the Lone Eagle was not alone. Following closely in his wake were a motley flock of Western Hemispherians, Coughlin, Pelley, Dies, Reynolds, Joseph McWilliams, and others. All advocated the expansion of the United States on this continent, by forceful means or "otherwise." North into Canada and south into the Latin Americas, the United States was, and is increasingly, urged to move -- while the time is ripe. As Pelley puts it, in a recent issue of his magazine Liberation, "It is a good idea to play with Business is business!"

In connection with this fervent plea for aggression on this continent, two additional facts are noteworthy. First: the proponents of this aggression are, without exception, today posing before the American public as lovers of peace. Second: these very same persons have organized and are trying to foment in this country an anti-Semitic campaign based on the lie that the Jewish people ("vindictive Jews," says Pelley; "Jewish War-Mongers," says McWilliams) desire and are responsible for the war in Europe. It is typical that those most thirsty for warfare should point an accusing finger at a people which has every reason to desire peace.

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rough the Hourglass

MICHAEL SAYERS

FASCIST FODDER

At any Christian Front, Mobilizers or anti-Semitic rally you will find them. They are not extraordinary folk. They are not, or at least the majority of them are not, noticeably un-American. On the contrary, to an alarming degree, they are normal "average" Americans, the sort you sit beside at any cheap movie show. Some of them are fairly down and out -- workers who have sunk below the level of the working-class. Most of them come from the lower middle class -- frayed white-collar folk, small-business men and their wives, mothers and sisters. You see many women at these gatherings.

The orator on the platform is melodramatic. His voice rises to a crescendo of indignation -- the Jews are to blame. His voice sinks to a whisper of explanation -- the Jews are to blame. In the audience the permanently unemployed and the permanently bankrupt, the socially twisted and broken and frustrated folk, follow every word with hysterical concentration. Things are wrong in America, in the world; they know things are wrong; there are wars, crises, depressions, they have no jobs, their businesses are ruined, they have been cheated and betrayed -- by what? by whom? Who is to blame? And the orator on the platform tells them -- the Jews are to blame. They believe him.

Why do they believe him? The psychological make-up of the average American anti-Semite is compounded of two elements. The first element is a moody awareness that social conditions are disjointed, that the time is ripe for changes, and that, unless they somehow assert themselves, they will not get a fair break. The second element is a need to hate something, somebody, to reach and smash the cause of their own frustration and want.

Remember this is the "average" American anti-Semite, not the wily Coughlins, nor the guttersnipe careerists who take advantage of the present boom in Jew-baiting. These are the ordinary folk who attend the meetings of the professional fascists, who read the literature, and are influenced by it, and gradually get drawn into the organizational activities. They need not have become fascists and Jew-baiters. In better times they would never have thought of such things. But times are bad. The demagogy of anti-Semitism comes as a revelation. It throws light on the causes of the conditions which torment them. In the fantasy of the "international Jew" they see revealed the mysterious evil force responsible for the wars and social upheavals that shake the world, for the economic scarcity that deprives them of their share of the earth's abundance.

They are the socially decayed, the economically superfluous. One thing they have left. It is the ability to hate. And the fascist demagogue teaches them what to hate. When they leave the meeting-hall they carry back with them to their skimpy homes and rooms the certainty that they know their enemy, the cause of their distress, and that they are not alone, that they are many, and that they have powerful and clever leaders and spokesmen. They straggle into the meeting-hall as a handful of "average" Americans; they leave it in the spirit of a demonic army. Of their fear and their hate a weapon has been forged. It is the weapon of American fascism.

April 27, 1940

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1917

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